

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03538 170838Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
CU-02 H-01 VO-03 SCA-01 BIB-01 /030 W
----- 040845 /15

R 170800Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1670
AMEMBASSY BONN
USIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL PRAGUE 3538

BONN FOR PRESS ATTACHE; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CZ
SUBJECT: MURRAY SEEGER, LOS ANGELES TIMES, VISA DENIAL

1. DR. MILAN KADNAR, HEAD OF MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT, TOLD PAO DEC. 16 THAT MURRAY SEEGER, BONN BASED LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT, WAS RECENTLY DENIED A VISA TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR "ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES THAT GO BEYOND THE NORMAL PRACTICE OF A JOURNALIST." PAO ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION. KADNAR SAID, "EVERY DIPLOMAT KNOWS WHAT THAT MEANS." PAO POINTED OUT SEEGER IS A WELL-KNOWN, RESPONSIBLE CORRESPONDENT WITH MAJOR US PAPER, WHO HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED VISITS TO BUDAPEST AND SOFIA, AND THAT COVERAGE OF THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC'S VISIT TO PRAGUE AND BRATISLAVA WAS A LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTIC REQUEST. KADNAR SAID, "WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE STORY OR THE PAPER, ONLY THE PERSON."

2. PAO REPLIED THAT GRANTING OF JOURNALISTS' VISAS ON US SIDE IS A MATTER OF RECIPROCITY AND THE GOC'S REFUSAL TO GRANT SEEGER A VISA COULD WELL BE RAISED IN THE PRESS AND IN CONGRESS. KADNAR REPLIED, "I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 03538 170838Z

OF VIEW VERY WELL," BUT THAT, "MR. SEEGER WILL KNOW WHAT WE MEAN."

3. COMMENT: KADNAR'S MANNER WAS CLEAR, UNRUFFLED, AND PRECISE. HE GAVE NO CLUE AS TO WHAT THE GOC'S REAL OBJECTION TO SEEGER MIGHT BE. FROM THIS EMBASSY'S VIEWPOINT, SEEGER

IS AMONG THE SEASONED PROS COVERING EASTERN EUROPE, SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO SWIM AGAINST THE LOCAL CURRENT, AND WRITE STORIES OF INTEREST TO HIS READERS WITHOUT GIVING SUCH OFFENSE THAT HE WOULD BE DENIED REENTRY TO THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH HE IS WRITING.

4. FOR BONN: DO YOU KNOW, OR CAN SEEGER SUGGEST, ANY REASON WHY HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR A CZECHOSLOVAK VISA?

BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, JOURNALISTS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE03538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-0651
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761233/aaaabcb.a tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MURRAY SEEGER, LOS ANGELES TIMES, VISA DENIAL
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SOPN, CZ, US, (SEEGER, MURRAY)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006